

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 TRSE-00 XMB-07

OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 NIC-01 DRC-01

/164 W

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R 041945Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9441

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 8439

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US

SUBJ: PONOMAREV DISCUSSES HIS VISIT

1. SUMMARY: CC SECRETARY PONOMAREV, JUST BACK FROM VISIT TO THE U.S., PRAISED HIS RECEPTION THERE. HE BROUGHT UP THE JEWISH EMIGRATION ISSUE, DISCUSSING IT ALONG FAMILIAR LINES BUT STRIKINGLY WITHOUT RANCOR AND WITHOUT CAVEATS ABOUT ITS BEING A SOVIET INTERNAL MATTER. WE JUDGE THAT THIS FACT ALONE REPRESENTS A CONSIDERABLE ACHIEVEMENT, CONSIDERING PONOMAREV'S BACKGROUND AND FUNCTIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. AMBASSADOR HOSTED LUNCHEON JUNE 4 FOR SEVERAL MEMBERS OF RECENTLY RETURNED SOVIET PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION. PRINCIPAL GUEST WAS CANDIDATE POLITBURO MEMBER PONOMAREV. DELEGATION MEMBERS ZAMYATIN, TOLKUNOV, AND CHAKOVSKY WERE ALSO PRESENT. CHAIRMEN OF TWO HOUSES OF SUPREME SOVIET, SHITIKOV AND NASRIDDINGVA, INDICATED A DESIRE TO ATTEND AND THEREFORE WERE ALSO INVITED, ALTHOUGH THEY DID NOT MAKE THE TRIP TO THE U.S.

3. PONOMAREV'S ASSESSMENT OF VISIT WAS POSITIVE. IN HIS TOAST  
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HE SPOKE WARMLY OF TALKS WITH PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT,

U.S. GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, CONGRESSMEN, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF U.S. BUSINESS. HE WAS IMPRESSED WITH GENERAL ARRANGEMENTS MADE FOR SOVIET GROUP DURING VISIT AND PRAISED RECEPTION OF DELEGATION THROUGHOUT. HE SAID THAT OUT OF PERHAPS 100 ENCOUNTERS ONLY TWO OR THREE COULD BE CONSIDERED "NEGATIVE." PONOMAREV MENTIONED THAT SOVIET OFFER TO RECEIVE SIMILAR DELEGATION FROM U.S. HAD BEEN ACCEPTED. IN GENERAL HE FELT THAT DESIRE FOR IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONS WAS STRONG AND NOTED SUPPORT FOR INCREASE OF U.S.-SOVIET TRADE AMONG U.S. BUSINESS GROUPS. WHILE REJECTING CONCEPT OF SOVIET-AMERICAN CONDONIUM, WHICH DELEGATION APPARENTLY HEARD RAISED IN THE U.S., PONOMAREV SAID IT IS A FACT OF LIFE THAT U.S. AND SOVIET UNION ARE THE TWO LEADING WORLD POWERS.

4. PONOMAREV NOTED IN HIS TOAST THAT SUBJECT OF JEWISH EMIGRATION FROM SOVIET UNION HAD BEEN RAISED DURING THE TRIP. WITHOUT REFERRING TO STANDARD SOVIET FORMULATION THAT EMIGRATION IS AN INTERNAL SOVIET MATTER, PONOMAREV SAID THAT PARLIAMENTARY GROUP HAD TRIED TO PRESENT FACTS TO ITS COUNTERPARTS IN DISPASSIONATE WAY. HE EMPHASIZED THAT LAST YEAR'S SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRATION FIGURE WAS QUITE HIGH, WITH 35,000 HAVING LEFT THE COUNTRY. HE SAID HE HAD TOLD U.S. GROUPS WHO RAISED THE ISSUE THAT SOVIET FIGURES SHOW A DROP IN THE DESIRE OF SOVIET JEWS TO EMIGRATE. NUMBER OF EXIT VISAS WERE BEING RETURNED BY JEWS AND MANY "TRAGIC" LETTERS HAD BEEN RECEIVED FROM SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRANTS WANTING TO RETURN TO USSR. IN CONTEXT OF JACKSON-VANIK AMENDMENT, PONOMAREV NOTED THAT THERE ARE SOME WHO HAVE THEIR OWN REASONS FOR NOT WANTING TO SEE AN IMPROVEMENT IN SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS.

5. OTHER DELEGATION MEMBERS PRESENT, IN CONVERSATIONS WITH EMBASSY, CHARACTERIZED VISIT ALONG SAME LINES AS PONOMAREV. ALL AGREED THAT TRIP WAS USEFUL FOR BOTH SIDES AND LOOKED FORWARD TO VISIT FROM U.S. CONGRESS. SEVERAL MENTIONED THAT THEY HAD HAD TALKS WITH U.S. CONGRESSMEN AND SEEMED PARTICULARLY PLEASED BY MEETINGS WITH SENATORS KENNEDY, PERCY, MUSKIE, HUMPHREY AND SPARKMAN. THEY NOTED THAT SEVERAL TRICKY ISSUES SUCH AS MFN AND EMIGRATION, HAD BEEN DISCUSSED BUT THOUGHT THE DISCUSSIONS, FOR THE MOST PART, HAD BEEN CONSTRUCTIVE. THEY FELT THERE WAS A GOOD DEAL OF CONFIDENTIAL

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PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR DETENTE, BUT CHAKOVSKY IN PARTICULAR MENTIONED THAT HE FELT PUBLIC WAS MISINFORMED ON CERTAIN

ISSUES. HE SAID HE WAS SURPRISED THAT NUMBER OF AMERICANS HAD LITTLE IDEA OF MEANING OF MFN, THINKING THAT IT WOULD GIVE SOME KIND OF ADVANTAGE TO SOVIET UNION OVER OTHER COUNTRIES.

6. FROM TENOR OF PONOMAREV'S AND OTHERS' REMARKS WE HAVE IMPRESSION THAT SOVIET DELEGATION MAY HAVE GOTTEN BETTER FEELING FOR U.S. OPINIONS ON VARIOUS AREAS OF U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS AND OF CONCERNS ABOUT PROBLEM AREAS LIKE EMIGRATION. THUS, WHILE PONOMAREV REITERATED ESTABLISHED SOVIET POSITION ABOUT CURRENT SLOWDOWN IN RATE OF EMIGRATION, HE EXPLAINED POSITION RATIONALLY AND WITHOUT RANCOR.  
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